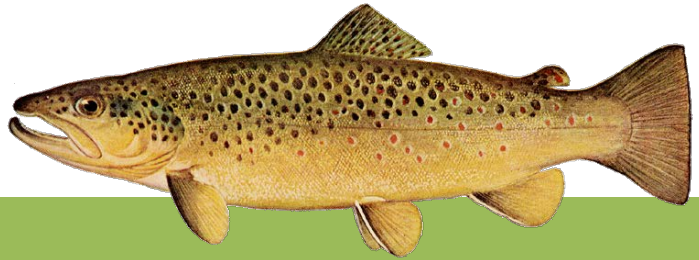


**CT DEEP 2015
FISHING REPORT NUMBER 24
9/24/2015**



Brown Trout (*Salmo trutta*)



YOU CAN FIND US DIRECTLY ON FACEBOOK. This page features a variety of information on fishing, hunting, and wildlife watching in Connecticut. The address is www.facebook.com/CTFishandWildlife.

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INLAND REPORT

TROUT- DEEP BEGINS ANNUAL FALL TROUT STOCKINGS.

DEEP's fall trout stockings began this week. From now through mid-October, DEEP is releasing 29,000 "trophy" and "adult" sized trout into selected waters throughout the state. Approximately 5,000 are "trophy" size Brown Trout (all greater than 12 inches in length), 8,000 are "trophy" size Rainbow Trout, 1,000 are broodstock Brown and Brook Trout, and the remaining 15,000 "adults" are standard size (9-10 inch) Rainbow Trout. In addition to these fish, the Farmington River was stocked with 2,000 "trophy" size Brown Trout just before the Labor Day weekend. Additionally, 33,000 "yearling" trout (4-8 inch fish) will be stocked into a number of waters. These small fish are intended to grow and holdover to provide late fall, winter and early spring fishing opportunities (or in several cases to enhance wild trout populations). **Note that stockings in a number of areas may be delayed or postponed due to environmental conditions (primarily low to very low flows in many streams, also possibly warmer than preferred water temperatures for trout in several ponds).**

Rivers and streams stocked this week: The **Housatonic River TMA** (1,000 12 inch and up Brown Trout and 5,000 9-10 inch Rainbow Trout).

Lakes and ponds stocked this week: In **western CT**, **West Hill Pond** (500 brown trout).

Trout Parks stocked this week: The **Chatfield Hollow** (Schreeder Pond -400 Rainbow Trout), **Day Pond** (400 Rainbow Trout), **Mohegan Park Pond** (400 Rainbow Trout) and **Valley Falls Park Pond** (400 rainbow trout) Trout Parks in eastern CT and the **Black Rock Pond** (300 Brown Trout), **Great Hollow Pond** (300 Brown Trout) and **Wharton Brook Pond** (300 Brown Trout) Trout Parks in western CT.



THIS SATURDAY:

Connecticut Hunting & Fishing Day

Saturday, September 26, 2015. 10 am-4 pm

Back by popular demand! On September 26, 2015 the DEEP Bureau of Natural Resources and the sporting community will be at [Sessions Woods Wildlife Management Area](#) celebrating the many benefits of hunting and fishing (click on [Hunting & Fishing Day](#) for online information).

Fun activities for all ages are planned, along with educational programs, a live raptor program by Talons, workshops about hunting and fishing, and live music. Best of all, the event is free to attend!

TROUT-LAKES & PONDS - Some good reports for late summer trout fishing from West Hill Pond (25-30 feet, gold/silver Flash King), Highland Lake (Copper, Nickle Suttons at 25' feet), Crystal Lake (Ellington; 8 colors) and Beach Pond (rigger at 26 feet, Pink/White Minx).

TROUT- RIVERS & STREAMS - Conditions for trout fishing will be variable this week. Good weather is in the forecast and recent fall-like temperatures have further moderated water temperatures, but flows are at low to very levels in many streams and continuing to drop, with the lowest flows generally in eastern CT (see stream flow graphic on page 4) with little to no rain in the 10-day forecast. Good reports from the West Branch Farmington River and Housatonic River last week.

Farmington River – Fishing has been good and conditions for the weekend should be very good. Good weather is forecast, water temperatures are in the mid 60's°F, West Branch flows are clear, on the low side (currently 112 cfs at Riverton with the Still River adding another 10 cfs) and very comfortable for fishing. As an added bonus for anglers, **THIS WEEK THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COMMISSION (MDC) IS STOCKING 1,100 LARGE BROWN TROUT** (12 inch and up fish) into the West Branch Farmington River from the Goodwin Dam to the gas pipeline downstream of the confluence with the Still River.

Hatches/patterns include *Isonychia bicolor* (major hatch, #12-14, fast water, afternoon/evening), Blue Wing Olives (*Drunella* & *Baetis* spp., #18, 22-24, mid-late afternoon), Needhami (#20-26), Caddis (tan #16-18, all day; green #22-26, evening; summer pupa #18-20 morning), Light Cahill (#12-14), Midges (#22-32, morning), Black Ants (#12-18, mid-day in fast water), White Fly (#12-14), Summer Steno (#18-20), Black Beetles (#16-18, mid day), Flying Ants (#18-26, mid day, when windy/humid) and Stone Hopper (#10-12, mid-day).

Housatonic River – Fishing has been good and conditions for the weekend should be good, with moderate water temperatures (upper 50's°F in the morning, rising to the mid 60's °F through the day), and clear (36 inches), wadeable flows (although getting low, currently 188 cfs at Falls Village and 226 cfs at Falls Village) and **lots of recently stocked trout**. A 9 foot 4-weight fly rod with a 9 foot leader and 7X tippet is recommended for this flow.

ATTENTION FARMINGTON RIVER USERS.

Is that “didymo” that you may have seen on rocks in the river this summer?



Not exactly –But close. It's *Cymbella janischii* (another diatom).

Cymbella janischii is currently blooming in the West Branch Farmington River in the town of Barkhamsted. *Cymbella janischii* is related to Didymo and forms thick mats (2-4 inches thick) that can cover the substrate. *Cymbella janischii* closely resembles Didymo in that it produces long thin stalks and is commonly lumped as a “rock snot”. To the naked eye, these stalks look light grey, fluffy, and some may form longer “tail-like” strands.

Anglers and all users of the river are urged to follow check, clean, dry methods to reduce the transport of *Cymbella janischii* (and all potential non-native species) from the West Branch Farmington to other waters around the state.

Cymbella janischii is endemic to the Pacific Northwest, where it can also form thick mats, and prior to its discovery in the West Branch Farmington River in 2012, had not been reported east of the Rocky Mountains.

Hatches/patterns include Blue Wing Olive (#18-24 on cloudy days, early morning; spinner fall in evening), Leadwing Coachman (#10-12 evening) and Black caddis (#14-18, early morning & evening), Light Cahills (#12-14, evening), Sulfurs (#16-18, evenings), Black/Cinnamon Ants (#14-20, mid day in fast water), Sulfurs (#16-18), Black Beetles (#14-20, mid day), Stone Hopper (#8-10, mid day) and Flying Ants (#16-18, mid day, when windy/humid). Try nymphing the pockets, deeper riffles and pool heads.

LARGEMOUTH BASS fishing is reported as slow to good. Places to try include East Twin Lake, Lake Wononskopomuc, Highland Lake, Bantam Lake, Lake Saltonstall, Candlewood Lake, Gardner Lake, Mono Pond, Quaddick Reservoir, Congamond Lakes, Burr Pond, Hatch Pond, Mudge Pond, Halls Pond, Lower Bolton Lake, West Hill Pond, Winchester Lake, Black Pond (Meriden), Lake Lillinonah, Stillwater Pond, Roseland Lake, Dog Pond, Cedar Lake and Bishop Swamp. **Tournament angler** reports are from Mansfield Hollow Reservoir (very good action with some very big fish, most notably a **7.63 lb lunger** caught by Dave Blanchette of Voluntown, plus a 5.69 lb bass and five 3 lb fish), Amos Lake (slow-fair, 3.70 lb lunger), Hopeville Pond (fair-good, 5.86 lb and 4.65 lb lunkers), Long Pond (fair to good, with a 4.88 lb lunger, fish averaged over 2 lbs apiece for one club), and Mashapaug Lake (fair fishing, nearly all 1-lb fish with a 1.94 lb lunger).

SMALLMOUTH BASS action are reported at Candlewood Lake, Mashapaug Lake and West Hill Pond.

Tournament angler reports are from Candlewood Lake (tough to fair, 4.12 lb lunger), Mashapaug Lake (slow to fair fishing, nothing much over 1 lb), and Lake zoar (some in the bags, with a 3.4 lb lunger).

NORTHERN PIKE catches have been reported in Quaddick Reservoir, Bantam Lake and Winchester Lake.

WALLEYE are being caught from Squantz Pond and Lake Saltonstall. Try back trolling the deep drop offs.

PANFISH are providing excellent fall action throughout the state. Worms, grubs, jigs or small poppers for them. Areas to try include Mitchell Pond, Mohegan Park Pond, Morey Pond, Mono Pond, Halls Pond, Roseland Lake, Pine Acres Lake, Anderson Lake, Quonnipaug Lake Crescent Lake, Great Hill Pond and Dog Pond. Don't forget your local small ponds, these are often great places for sunfish.

BLACK CRAPPIE fishing is good and getting better. Small shiners are the way to go and action can be found at Park Pond, Lake of Isles, Kenosia Lake, Halls Pond and Mamanasco Lake.

CONNECTICUT RIVER

Flows are currently low and it may be difficult to access some back waters and coves. **LARGEMOUTH BASS** are being caught in the Hartford to Haddam Meadows section. **SMALLMOUTH BASS** fishing has slowed somewhat but they are still being caught in the Suffield/Enfield area. Also some steady smallmouth action from below Hartford to Haddam, including a 4.63 lb beauty and several fish in the 3-3.5 lb range. **BLACK CRAPPIE** are being caught in the coves. **CHANNEL CATFISH** were reported in the Cromwell to Haddam area. Anglers should try cut bait or chunks to deeper holes along outside edges of the river. Look for brush piles for resting fish.

ZEBRA MUSSELS REMINDER

Zebra mussels are now found in a number of locations scattered throughout the Housatonic River and its impoundments including Lake Lillinonah (since 2010), Lake Zoar (since 2010) and Lake Housatonic (since 2011).

Prior to their discovery in Lakes Lillinonah and Zoar in 2010, zebra mussels had been found (1998) in CT only in East Twin Lake and West Twin Lake (Salisbury). Anglers fishing in any of these waters and western Connecticut in general **should use extra care to avoid transporting water, aquatic vegetation, and possibly zebra mussels to new locations.** Information

For more information including precautions that should be taken to prevent the spread of zebra mussels to additional waters, visit www.ct.gov/deep/invasivespecies or the Aquatic Invasive species section of the 2015 CT angler's Guide(www.ct.gov/deep/anglersguide).



NOTES & NOTICES:

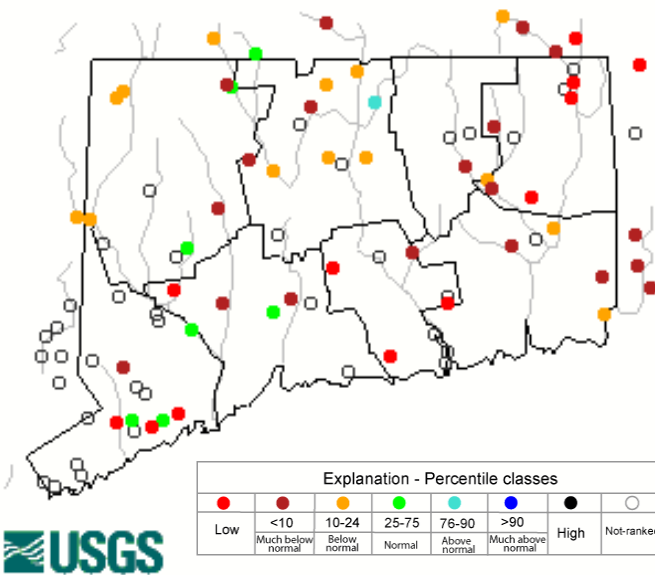
BASHAN LAKE (drawdown). Bashan Lake remains drawn down (slow refill has begun – lake currently remains down approximately 10 feet – note that refill rate is dependent on rainfall amounts) following dam repairs and the state boat launch is closed.

COLEBROOK RIVER LAKE (boat launch). The **boat launch at Colebrook River Lake is closed until further notice** due to low water levels. Boaters should call the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) at 860-379-8234 for updated information.

CONNECTICUT RIVER (Glastonbury - rowing regatta). A high school rowing event is scheduled for **Saturday, September 26 from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm** in the Rocky Hill/Glastonbury area (staging out of Seaboard Marina). Boaters should however use additional caution on the northern portion of the lake.

GLASGO POND (drawdown). A drawdown of Glasgo Pond to facilitate dam repairs was scheduled to begin September 16. Launching of boats will become difficult as levels drop.

MASHAUG LAKE (boat launch). The boat launch on Mashapaug Lake (in Bigelow Hollow State Park-Union) is currently scheduled to be closed for line repainting on September 29th and reopening the next day (September 30th).

Stream flow conditions as of 9/24/2015**Thursday, September 24, 2015 20:00ET**

Data in the state graphic to the left are generated by the United States Geologic Survey (USGS) and are available on line at: <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ct/nwis/rt>

A percentile is a value on a scale of one hundred that indicates the percent of data in the data set equal to or below it. For example streamflow greater than the 75th percentile means only ¼ of the streamflow values were above the value and thus would be considered “above normal”. Stream flow between the 25th and 50th are considered to be “normal flows” and those 25th or less are considered to be “below normal”.

LAKE & POND BATHYMETRIC MAPS

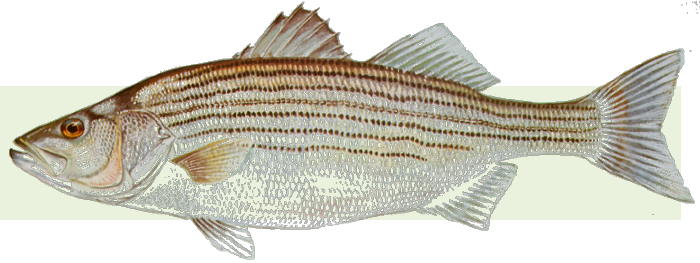
Bathymetric maps of many of Connecticut’s public access lakes and ponds can be found online at:

www.ct.gov/deep/lib/deep/fishing/general_information/lakebathymetrymaps.pdf

Both plain line maps and maps overlaying an aerial photo available.



MARINE FISHING REPORT



Surface water temperatures in Long Island Sound (LIS) remain in the mid to upper 70's °F. Check out the following web sites for more detailed water temperatures and marine boating conditions:

<http://www.mysound.uconn.edu/stationstat.html>

http://marine.rutgers.edu/mrs/sat_data/?nothumbs=1

<http://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/>

<http://www.wunderground.com/MAR/AN/330.html>

REMINDER TO ANGLERS: Whales have been reported in Long Island Sound, please see the [WHALE WATCHING GUIDELINES](#) on our website.

Please note: All marine mammals are protected by the Federal Marine Mammal Protection Act. Following these recommended operational guidelines helps minimize chances of harassing or injuring whales and violating Federal law. Guidelines apply to all large whales from Maine through Virginia, except North Atlantic right whales. It is illegal to approach a right whale within 500 yards (1500 feet) unless granted specific exemption or authorization.

[Connecticut State Boundary Line in Long Island Sound.](#)

Anglers please note: Though Connecticut has reciprocity with neighboring states (New York, Rhode Island, Maine and Massachusetts), residents of Connecticut are required to have a CT Resident Marine Waters Sport Fishing License to fish in the Marine District.

STRIPED BASS fishing remains fair to good and **BLUEFISH** fishing is about at peak! Some of the largest bluefish of the year can be found in the lower reaches of our major tidal rivers! Look for bunker (Atlantic menhaden) schools and choppers will be nearby. Fishing spots include the Watch Hill reefs, Ram Island Reef in Fishers Island Sound, lower Thames River, the Race, Sluiceway, Pigeon Rip, Plum Gut, outer Bartlett Reef, Black Point, the "humps" south of Hatchett Reef, lower Connecticut River, Long Sand Shoal, Cornfield Point, Southwest Reef (outer), Six Mile Reef, Falkner Island area, the reefs off Branford, New Haven Harbor, Charles Island area, lower Housatonic River, buoys 18 and 20 off Stratford Point, Stratford Shoal/Middle Ground, Penfield Reef, around the Norwalk Islands, and Cable and Anchor Reef.



SNAPPER BLUEFISH fishing is still hanging in there and can be found mixed in with menhaden. Snappers are measuring about 6-10 inches in length.

BLACK SEA BASS and SCUP (porgy) fishing has not changed in the past few weeks and remains excellent! Any of the rocky reefs will provide nonstop action! Fishing structure in deeper water (80+ feet) will improve your chances for larger “hump heads”. Fishing in deeper water (80+ feet) over gnarly bottom is your best bet for bigger black sea bass. Shore fishing spots for scup [Enhanced Shore Fishing Opportunities](#). These “Panfish of the Sea” are easily caught on sandworms/cut squid/conch or any other small piece of bait. Contact your local [bait and tackle shop](#) for updated fishing information (see page 14 of the 2015 CT Angler’s Guide).

ATLANTIC BONITO and LITTLE TUNNY fishing has expanded into western LIS from Stratford Shoal/Middle Ground over to the Norwalk Islands and Cable and Anchor Reef. In the east, Pine Island, Bartlett Reef including off Harkness Memorial State Park and Black Point have been the spots, but, you never know when or where these speedsters will show up! Look for hovering and diving gulls and terns to give away their location.

BLUE CRAB fishing continues to improve slightly. **Remember, all egg-bearing females must be released without avoidable injury. Minimum carapace length is 5 inches for a hard shell crab.** Legal gear types include: scoop (dip) net, hand line, star crab trap, circular (topless) trap not exceeding 26 inches in diameter. Maryland Style Crab traps are prohibited. **Chicken with the skin on it (along with a long handle net) is the preferred method to capture these tasty crabs.** For more information, please see the [Blue Crab Fact Sheet](#) on our website.

SHARK SPECIES YOU MAY ENCOUNTER IN COASTAL WATERS OF CONNECTICUT: Although you might catch Sand Tiger and Sandbar (Brown) Sharks, they are both protected prohibited species and must be released unharmed. **IF YOU DON’T KNOW, PLEASE LET IT GO!** [Coastal shark information](#).

SHORE FISHING SPOTS & TIDE TABLE INFORMATION

To find a saltwater shore fishing spot close to where you live, go to the following website:

<http://www.lisrc.uconn.edu/coastalaccess/>.

For **Enhanced Opportunity Shore Fishing** sites and other fishing information including a site map go to the following website

<http://www.depdata.ct.gov/maps/saltwaterfish/map.htm>.

Please see page 60 of the [2015 CT Angler’s Guide](#) for CT tide information.

BRACKISH WATER & SEA TURTLE INFORMATION

- Link to [IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON SEA TURTLES](#)
- [NORTHERN DIAMONDBACK TERRAPIN TURTLE](#) – [Many shore anglers fishing in the lower Connecticut and Housatonic Rivers and other estuaries are encountering these beautiful brackish water turtles while fishing. They will frequently feed on fishermen’s live or dead bait when bottom fishing. They are a protected species with very low abundance. Please take great care \(use needle nose pliers\) when removing the hook and release the turtle with unavoidable harm. Terrapins have a long lifespan of about 25 to 40 years.](#)

GOT A FISHING REPORT - PLEASE EMAIL US AT deep.marine.fisheries@ct.gov

NOTABLE CATCHES:

<i>species</i>	<i>Length (inches)</i>	<i>Weight (lbs)</i>	<i>name</i>
Black Sea Bass	24	4 lb, 14 oz	Said Gouzi
Black Sea Bass	24.5	5 lb, 15 oz	Bryan Landen
Black Sea Bass	24	5 lb	Hunter Landen
Black Sea Bass	22.5	4 lb, 3.2 oz	Hunter Landen
Scup	17	2 lb, 12.8 oz	Hunter Landen
Scup	18	2 lb, 15.2 oz	Dakota Pane
Summer Flounder	27.5	7 lb, 14 oz	Scott Romano
Summer Flounder	28	8 lb, 8. oz	Ralph R. Dani

For Current Connecticut Recreational Fishing Regulations: Anglers should consult the 2015 Connecticut Anglers Guide which is now available at most Town Clerks Offices, DEEP offices and at tackle stores selling fishing licenses. Current regulations, electronic versions of the Angler's Guide and additional information can all be accessed on the DEEP website at: www.ct.gov/deep/fishing.

The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer that is committed to complying with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Please contact us at (860) 418-5910 or deep.accommodations@ct.gov if you have a disability and need a communication aid or service; have limited proficiency in English and may need information in another language; or if you wish to file an ADA or Title VI discrimination complaint.

DEEP WEEKLY Fishing Report



**Connecticut Department of
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106
www.ct.gov/deep

Striped Bass image courtesy Duane Raver/USFWS.